

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 92-023-R - ORDER NO. 92-928  
OCTOBER 28, 1992

IN RE:	Application of South Carolina	)	ORDER
	Electric & Gas Company for	)	ESTABLISHING
	Adjustments in the Company's Coach	)	BUS FARE PLAN
	Fares and Charges, Routes, and	)	FOR LOW INCOME
	Route Schedules.	)	RIDERS
		)	
		)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of the establishment of a bus fare plan for low income riders on the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G or the Company) bus transit system in Charleston and Columbia.

In our Order No. 92-781 in this Docket, entered on September 14, 1992, the Commission ordered the Staff to investigate and develop a proposal for the provision of 40¢ rides to requesting low income persons, and to report back to the Commission after researching the matter. The Staff has now reported back to the Commission, after having conducted its investigation and having gathered data from SCE&G, the Intervenor in this matter, and other sources.

After due consideration, the Commission hereby adopts the following method of establishing a bus fare plan for low income riders:

1. Social service agencies will continue to purchase tickets at a price of 40¢ per ride to be given to their clients who are suffering in a state of financial crisis, as is presently done. These tickets are not to be resold. No identification card will be required for use of these tickets on an SCE&G bus.

2. Individuals who qualify to receive Social Security Insurance (SSI), those who qualify for Medicaid, and individuals who qualify for temporary food assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or the Food Stamp Program will qualify to be issued a "Low Income Discount Rider Identification Card." These cards, which will be picture identification cards, will be issued at no charge by SCE&G, when proof of eligibility is presented at the Company's designated offices. One card for each eligible family member who desires a card shall be issued, upon completion of an affidavit by a qualifying adult family member indicating the names of other members of their household. These affidavits are to be made available by SCE&G.

3. Other individuals and families who provide certification of their low income status from those service providers that use the low income coupon program, will also be issued ID Card(s) authorizing them to ride for a 40¢ fare. These persons must meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines as set forth in 57 Federal Register 5455, dated February 14, 1992, and such succeeding Federal Poverty Guidelines as may be published. This will be done by showing qualifying documents to one of the social service agencies or the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and receiving a

letter of qualification from that agency on their letterhead. This letter should be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. This letter then must be presented to SCE&G as above for issuance of the ID card(s).

4. Agencies who verify eligibility must retain files showing evidence that those they qualify are in fact eligible. These files must be available on demand for audit by the Commission Staff.

5. Individuals who receive the "Low Income Rider Identification Card" can, by showing this card to the driver, ride an SCE&G bus by depositing 40¢ in exact change, into the fare box when entering the bus.

6. SCE&G will issue new cards with continuing proof of eligibility, quarterly, or when deemed necessary to prevent large scale misuse. Cards lost by low income riders will be replaced by SCE&G at a cost to the individual of \$2 per card.

The Commission further believes that the Company should provide Notice of the plan to its customers as soon as possible by posting Notice of the plan at each transfer point and on buses. Further, the availability of such a plan should be advertised by making handouts available on each SCE&G bus to explain the details of the program. Further, the Commission holds that this plan should become effective two weeks from the date of this Order. SCE&G should designate its offices in both Charleston and Columbia for the purposes of administering this plan accordingly, and include the locations in these Notices.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further  
Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)

EXHIBIT A

LETTERHEAD

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE SERVICES WHICH ARE PROVIDED BY THIS AGENCY/PROVIDER. THIS PROGRAM SERVICES LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH IN 57 Federal Register 5455, February 14, 1992.

NAMES

ADDRESSES

---

---

---

---

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY OFFICIAL

TITLE

PHONE NUMBER

DATE